

McKeown, Bruce Joseph, Lance-Corporal (D3831)



- Bruce Joseph McKeown was born on 18 July 1922 in Montreal, Quebec. He was 22 years old when he died of wounds on 11 May 1945 in Germany.
- On 11 September 1940, he enlisted at the District depot in Montreal South, Quebec. He was immediately sent for basic training in Farnham, Quebec. He was then transferred Camp Debert, Nova Scotia, to join the 7th Canadian Reconnaissance Regiment. On 23 August 1941, he and the Regiment were sent overseas to England and deployed in southern England. On 11 July, he, and his squadron ("C" Squadron) were deployed to France.
- He had a little military experience, having paraded a month with the Black Watch.
- Prior to enlisting, he was employed for three months as a labourer at the Ogilvie Flour Mill in the port of Montreal.
- He left school at the age of 17 after completing 2 years of high school.
- According to his medical examination, he was 5 foot 7 inches tall and weighed 135 pounds. He had hazel eyes and brown hair. He was found fit for category A.
- He was the son of James and Helen McKeown. The couple had separated, and his mother resided at 670 avenue de l'Épée, Outremont, Quebec. He had six siblings; Albert (37), Russell (31), Patricia (29), Vera (27) Stuart (24), and Allan (21).
- He was single and had no children.
- The sole beneficiary of Bruce's will was his mother.
- His body is buried in the Holten Canadian War Cemetery, Overijssel, Netherlands (Ref: VII. F. 6.)(plot, row, grave).

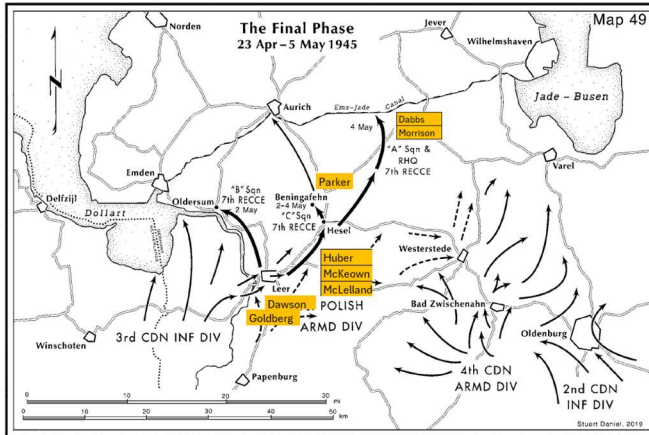
Context

- After liberating the northern part of the Netherlands, the Regiment and the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division were ordered to cross into Germany and start clearing the Rheider peninsula. The first elements of the Regiment entered Germany during the second half of April 1945. Unlike the Netherlands, where the enemy was withdrawing using delaying tactics, the German forces were determined to fight. They had prepared their defences and laid thousands of mines and were much more aggressive. Further, the local population had no incentive to help the

Honour Roll profiles from the Second World War

Members of the 7th Canadian Reconnaissance Regiment (17th Duke of York's Royal Canadian Hussars)

Allied Forces, and the ground was soft and boggy making it more difficult to manoeuvre. These factors combined to increase the number of casualties.



- According to the War Diary: At 08:00 hours on 5 May 1945, the “CEASE FIRE” order became effective. On the 6 May 1945, the Regiment received orders to move to the AURICHE area. On the 9 May 1945, each squadron was attached to one of the Division’s brigades until the sweeps of their respective areas were completed. On 11 May 1945, a very unfortunate accident took place at 1400 hours when a carrier from Nine Troop “C” Squadron ran over a mine near LEER. The crew of six were evacuated to the Hospital where D3831 Corporal McKeown, B.J., L84635 Trooper Huber W.L., and D95623 Trooper McLelland, J.T. succumbed to their wounds.

